

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 734 without my signature.

This bill would amend membership criteria for the California Apprenticeship Council (CAC), significantly amend existing law with regard to auditing of apprenticeship programs, and places new requirements on new or expanding apprenticeship programs in the building and construction trades.

While the auditing provisions are a vast improvement in public policy over existing audit provisions, changes to criteria for membership on the CAC and a failure to address the “needs test” for new or expanding apprenticeship programs are cause for concern. There has been no indication that current criteria for membership is somehow inadequate or needs to be addressed, and the failure to address the “needs test” will ensure that California’s apprenticeship programs will remain de-recognized by the federal Department of Labor.

For these reasons, I am returning this bill without my signature.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger